

# the TORCH

Winter 2010

Quarterly

## 12 YEARS OF SENDING OPERATION HAPPY HOLIDAYS GIFT BOXES

This was the highest number yet in the 12 years of Operation Happy Holidays. Military personnel, retirees, employees of 1st Liberty Federal Credit Union packed and shipped huckleberry candy, beef jerky and phone cards to 1,145 military deployed overseas during the holidays from Malmstrom Air Force Base, Montana Air National Guard, Montana Army Guard and the US Reserves. This is just a small way of thanking those who willingly have gone above and beyond to protect the freedoms we sometimes take for granted. We will always remember their sacrifices! People from all over Montana and the country have been donating money to help pay for the items being sent and the postage. Any and all donations are so much appreciated and needed. Anyone donating \$40 or more (the price of items and shipping of a box) had their name included in the gift box. Thank you all and Bless you.



Marsha Cotton, Col Cotton's wife and Steve Grooms, President/CEO of 1st Liberty Federal Credit Union pack goodies to be sent to the troops overseas.



## Inside this Issue:

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## Do You want to make a difference as a volunteer and join the 1st Liberty Team?

Now is the time to act, if you are interested in serving on a committee or in becoming a member of the Board of Directors for your Credit Union. To follow the protocol specified in the bylaws of the Credit Union, the necessary forms must be completed and received by the Credit Union no later than March 4th, 2011. Nominations for vacancies may be made by petition signed by 1% of the membership. The election will not be conducted by ballot when there is only one nominee for each position to be filled.

The duty of the Board of Directors is to oversee the general operation of the Credit Union, to set policy and adhere to the bylaws and federal regulations that govern Federal Credit Unions. The volunteer committees assist and support the Board of Directors. The requirements of interested persons is a background in finance and/or business, be bondable and approved by the NCUA and a willingness to dedicate time to the Credit Union. Board members are elected for a two year term and are scheduled to attend at least one meeting a month, more if and when the need arises. All members of the age of 18 or older are eligible to hold volunteer office in the Credit Union and may be appointed to serve on committees.

If you are interested in volunteering your time and becoming one of the vital links of the Credit Union movement, contact the Secretary of the Board of Directors at:

**Secretary of the Board of Directors  
1st Liberty Federal Credit Union  
PO Box 5002  
Great Falls, MT 59403-5002**

## RETIREMENT

Announcement  
Dimmer Kjelsrud



After a little more than 11 years with 1st Liberty Federal Credit Union, Dimmer Kjelsrud, Marketing Director retired on December 31, 2010. We thank Dimmer for her contributions and the shared success at 1st Liberty Federal Credit Union. We wish Dimmer great happiness on her new journey in life.

To save \$'s now it is time to refinance your **30** yr mortgage to a **15** year mortgage or purchase a new house.

Pay your mortgage off in half the time and we keep your mortgage local! Contact a loan office today. You will be happy you did.



**"WE GO WITH YOU"**

when PSCing or moving! Just give us a call AND we'll take care of the rest.



## REMINDER.....

### IMPORTANT IRA INFORMATION

Your **IRA** balance, as of **December 31, 2010** is the fair market value of your **IRA** which will be reported to the IRS.

## EMPLOYEE RECOGNITION



1st Liberty Federal Credit Union recognizes the following employees for their contributions in reinforcing our mission of excellent member service, teamwork, positive attitudes and going above and beyond in continuing to **make a positive difference in every member's life we touch!**

### Congratulations for Balancing to the Penny - 3rd Quarter 2010

Kayla Bokma, Jessica Holder, Marjorie Legg, Erin Nielsen, Bailey Pettit, Jennifer Gustafson, Melissa Moritz, Christina Toth and Nicholas Watson. Way to go!

We congratulate Marjoire Legg and Shari VanCleve for going above and beyond in exemplifying 1st Liberty FCU's mission. Way to go!!!

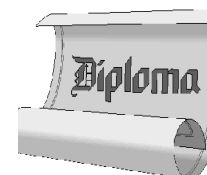
### Years of Service in the 4th Quarter 2010

Shari VanCleve          5 years of service in November

1st Liberty Federal Credit Union recognizes and congratulates those employees who are celebrating their Years of Service in the fourth quarter 2010. We recognize your hard work, dedication and loyalty and look forward to many more of your contributions that continue the success of 1st Liberty Federal Credit Union.

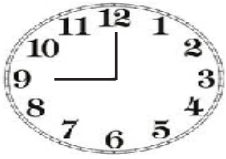
## You and Your Money FREE Training

Let us help you keep your New Year's Resolutions! The Giant Springs Chapter of Credit Unions will be offering a **FREE** class on smart budgeting and developing a spending plan. The class will be held at 6:30 - 8:00 pm on Tuesday, January 11, 2011 in Great Falls. Please RSVP to Mary Ellen Frasure by January 6, 2011 at 406-761-8300 to reserve your spot and to get additional details. **SPACE IS LIMITED.**



## DOWNTOWN BRANCH

### GREAT FALLS NEW HOURS

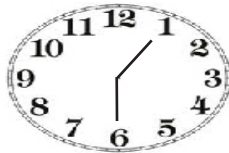


Beginning January 3, 2011 the hours of the Downtown Branch in Great Falls, MT will change. Mindful of the member base

in the downtown area our hours of operation will be Monday - Friday for 9:00 am to 1:30 pm.

There are five other convenient Branches in Great Falls with hours of 9:00 am to 5:00 pm

Montana - Friday with convenient drive up service. The Branch at 505 10th Ave S and 401 Smelter Ave NE also have drive up service on Saturdays from 9:00 am to 1:00 pm.



## Make the Holiday Perfect... Auto Loans

**Auto Loans**  
New & Used  
Cars & Trucks

Get Pre-approved  
before you shop

As Low As **3.79%** APR  
OAC  
Limited Time  
(see branch for details)



**1st Liberty**

FEDERAL CREDIT UNION

"See 1<sup>st</sup> Liberty 1<sup>st</sup>" \*Annual Percentage On Approved Credit

## SEASONAL LOANS

**\$2500** for 12 months at 9.9% annual percentage rate on approved credit.

Take advantage of this great rate for a limited time!



## TAX REFUND?

Use IRS direct!

Use 1st Liberty's ABA number 292977349 on your IRS 1040 form in the section labeled "Refund".

## Member Education



## Refund Anticipation Loans - Not a Good Deal!

When money is tight quick cash is hard to resist. That's why tax refund anticipation loans (RALs) continue to lure consumers even though they come with a hefty price of excessive fees and surcharges.

Tax refund anticipation loans are extremely high-cost loans secured by the taxpayer's expected refund -- loans that last 7-14 days until the actual IRS refund repays the loan. Even without the costly loan, most taxpayers could have their refund in two weeks or less. RALs are aggressively marketed and advertise "Instant Refunds" or "Quick Cash" for their cash-strapped customers who need money in a hurry, and disguise the fact that they are selling advance loans on anticipated tax refunds.

These loans charge you an APR typically between 40 to 700 percent for the convenience of receiving your hard earned tax refund just a little bit faster. Even so, 12 million taxpayers last year signed up for this rip off and ended up paying over \$900 million dollars for RAL fees. For more information about RALs, please visit the Center for Responsible Lending (<http://www.responsiblelending.org/other-consumer-loans/refund-anticipation-loans/>).

Before committing to a Refund Anticipation Loan, understand that there are other ways to ensure you receive your tax refund in a timely fashion and less expensive. Keep more of what you earn - Find out which option is best for you!

- Tax refunds can be deposited into your account if you e-file. It usually takes ten days to two weeks to process and deposit the funds into an account. Local libraries often have literature about how to e-file. Ask for assistance.
- There are many free tax filing options available with varying eligibility requirements. IRS Certified Volunteers provide free tax assistance through the Volunteer Income Tax Assistance (VITA) program for persons with low-to-moderate income and through the Tax Counseling for the Elderly (TCE) program for persons age 60 and older. For more information on VITA or TCE, visit [www.irs.gov](http://www.irs.gov) or call 1-800-829-1040

[MontanaFreeFile.org](http://MontanaFreeFile.org) is a collaborative project of the Montana's Credit Unions, Montana Legal Services Association, Montana Department of Revenue, Opportunity Link, Inc., and Rural Dynamics Inc,



We wish you a joyous New Year

## Debit Card and Credit Card

Due to the rise in fraud and identity theft, we are implementing a system which monitors debit and credit card transactions in real time for validity. This monitoring is for your protection. The system looks at transactions before authorizations are obtained by the merchants. If these transactions are originated outside your local area or spending trends, the authorization could be denied. In order to protect yourself against false denials, if you are planning to travel outside your current area and will be using your 1st Liberty debit or credit card for purchases, please contact your Member Service Representative regarding your travel plans (dates and destinations), so we can eliminate possible denials. [www.1stliberty.org](http://www.1stliberty.org) or 1-800-824-0585.

## SMALL LOAN FOR A RAINY DAY...

We offer SAFE,  
AFFORDABLE  
loans



as SMALL as \$300



to help you weather  
lives's storms.

### HOLIDAY CLOSURES

#### MARTIN LUTHER KING JR.

Day

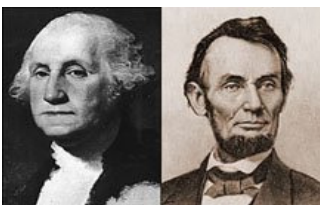
January 17, 2011

Monday



#### PRESIDENT'S DAY

February 21, 2011



Monday

## Locations & Phone Numbers

1-800-824-0585

### Outside local area

**Robert H. Scott Branch**  
6200 3rd Avenue North  
Great Falls, MT 59405  
406-761-8300

**Malmstrom AFB Branch**  
228 75th St N MAFB  
MAFB, MT 59402  
406-761-8300

**Westside Branch**  
920 Central Avenue West  
Great Falls, MT 59404  
406-761-8300

**10th Avenue South**  
505 10th Avenue South  
Great Falls, MT 59404  
406-761-8300

**Riverview Branch**  
401 Smelter NE  
Great Falls, MT 59404  
406-761-8300

**Downtown Branch**  
100 Central Ave  
Great Falls, MT 59401  
406-761-8300

**Conrad Branch**  
202 South Main Street  
Conrad, MT 59425  
406-278-3020

**Cut Bank PE Branch**  
310 West Main Street  
Cut Bank, MT 59427  
406-873-2213

**Grand Forks AFB Branch**  
589 Holzapple Street  
Grand Forks, ND 58204  
701-594-5515

**Grand Forks Branch**  
3197 South 17th Street  
Grand Forks, ND 58201  
701-772-9519

See us on the Internet at [www.1stliberty.org](http://www.1stliberty.org)